

University of Toronto

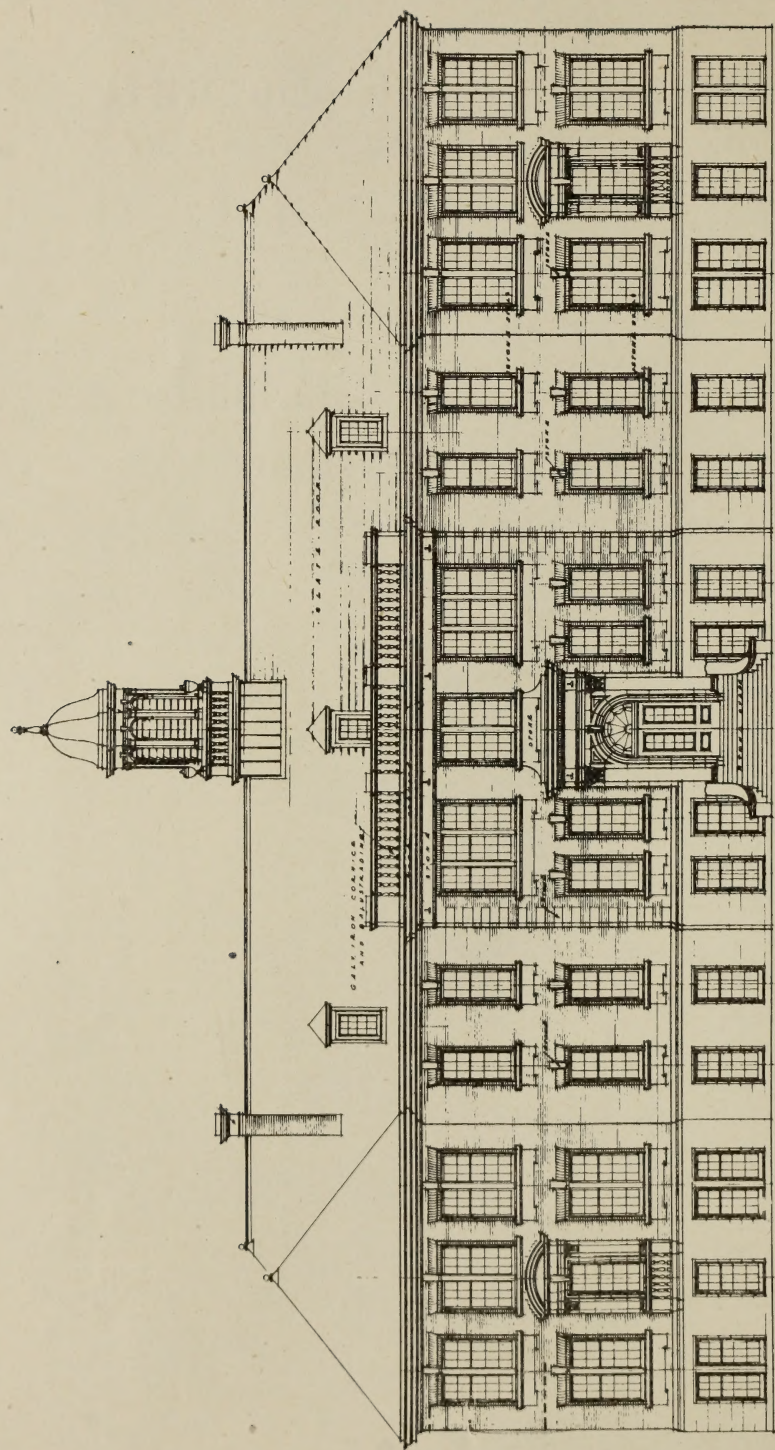
(THE PROVINCIAL UNIVERSITY OF ONTARIO)

Opportunities for Graduates in Veterinary Science



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ONTARIO VETERINARY COLLEGE, GUELPH, ONTARIO

The Main Building, here shown, is new and fully modern, with the best of facilities and equipment for scientific instruction. The Ontario Veterinary College is one of the affiliated colleges of the University of Toronto.

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(THE PROVINCIAL UNIVERSITY OF ONTARIO)

THERE was a time, it may be safe to say, when the practice of veterinary science was not as highly regarded as it should have been. Perhaps the country would have been richer to-day if the importance of the work of the veterinary surgeon had been duly recognized two decades ago. But horses, cows, sheep and pigs were not as valuable then as they have been during the last few years and the veterinary surgeon was only rarely appealed to for assistance. Besides, the work of healing the ailments of livestock was not generally regarded as a particularly attractive occupation.

But now all this is changed. The health of livestock must be carefully guarded because these animals constitute one of the nation's most important economic resources. Pure food laws have made the veterinary surgeon a government and municipal inspector as well as a doctor of animals. In both spheres he has become an essential factor in the life of the nation. His salary as an official ranges from \$1,800 to \$2,400 with annual increases and in administrative positions from \$2,500 to \$5,000; his income as a practising surgeon is usually higher still.

Because this change in the status of veterinary science may not be known to the boys in the Collegiate Institutes, High Schools, and Continuation Schools of Canada, this bulletin is sent out to explain to them something of the work done in the Ontario Veterinary College, one of the colleges affiliated with the Provincial University. To the boy who "doesn't know what he is going to be" a perusal of these pages may bring suggestions. When a boy decides on his lifework, his study is almost certain to become more definite, more purposeful, and more effective.

Higher education has come to be recognized as one of the sure foundation-stones of success. No matter in what occupation a man may be engaged, his college course will always be to him a source of satisfaction; and to no one does the University offer greater advantages than to the man or woman with ambitions along professional lines. The veterinary profession, as one of the newest, has, hitherto, not received the consideration which its importance warrants. Modern conditions, however, have directed attention to the necessity for graduates in veterinary science. A veterinary surgeon is in an excellent position to establish for himself a business career with good financial returns; but, on the other hand, if he has not the inclination to practise, there are openings in abundance elsewhere. It would be well, therefore, for the young man about to make his choice of a university course to take into consideration the splendid opportunities which Veterinary Science has to offer.

THE VETERINARY PROFESSION

The young man about to begin his college career hears so often the cry that the professions are already overcrowded. Whether that be true in some cases or not, there is one to which the statement does not apply; that is, the veterinary profession. The others—dentistry, for example, and medicine, and law, to name only three of the popular professions of the day, have drawn in with their numbers some of those who might have become veterinarians. The war also tended to create a deficit in numbers, with the result, that, at the present time, there are fewer men training for the veterinary profession than has been the case for years. Consequently, veterinary science is a profession that offers a young man on graduation the assurance of a position with a good income and without that competition which makes some of the other professions less attractive.

A boy with pass matriculation who wishes to become a high school teacher has five years of study before him; if he is ambitious to be a doctor, seven years (including one for honour matriculation subjects) will be required; if the practice of law attracts him, he must study for seven years more; but four years will suffice to make him a veterinary surgeon. The fees (\$85.00 per year) are less than in medicine, dentistry, or in practical science.

Since the requirements for admission to the Veterinary College have been increased to junior or pass matriculation, the immediate effect has been that the standard of the whole course has been noticeably raised. The old idea that very little preliminary education was necessary to become a veterinarian is being eradicated, with the result that the status of a graduate in veterinary science has been very considerably enhanced. Recent legislation provides that in future only those who are recognized graduates in veterinary science will be entitled to practise as veterinary surgeons or to act as veterinary inspectors to deal with the treatment of cattle tuberculosis and other contagious diseases of livestock. The position of the graduate veterinarian is thus assured.

GOVERNMENT POSITIONS

Posts of a most desirable kind are to be found in the civil services of the Federal Government of Canada as administrative officers, veterinary inspectors, and investigators, for which there are several hundred openings. The position of a government inspector is a very desirable one. His work is clean and interesting and his surroundings pleasant. Canning factories and similar plants at which inspection is maintained are obliged by government regulation to furnish suitable accommodation for inspectors. This includes the exclusive use of rooms suitable for office purposes and such fittings as may be required for the proper conduct of the business of the department and the well-being of the inspectors.

The services of the veterinary scientist are indispensable in safeguarding the health of animals and in the hygienic production of milk and of meat food products necessary for the establishment of domestic

and foreign trade. In order to facilitate the export to foreign countries of Canadian dressed meats and meat products nearly two hundred specially trained veterinarians are stationed at the large abattoirs and packing plants throughout Canada. These men carefully inspect all animals before and after slaughter, and the meats are government-stamped and certified as healthy, wholesome food. It should be remembered that the inspection of livestock by qualified veterinarians, both before and after slaughter, is essential for the establishment and continuance of Canada's export trade with Great Britain and the United States, because their regulations require official veterinary inspection and certification of all livestock and of all meats and meat products exported from other countries.

Apart from the federal appointments, there are opportunities for veterinarians in the various Departments of Agriculture as district representatives whose duty it is to investigate and to prevent losses among livestock. A large number of veterinary inspectors is appointed for the purpose of visiting individual farms and taking such action as may be necessary to control and suppress contagious diseases.

CIVIC POSITIONS

Most cities and towns are in need of properly trained veterinarians for public health work in order to safeguard their citizens from unwholesome supplies of milk and meat. Since municipal inspection of dairies and abattoirs has been made obligatory, many towns have engaged veterinarians and as the public becomes more sensitive to the dangers lurking in impure food of any description, more officials and more highly qualified officials will be needed for the work of inspection.

COMMERCE

The services of skilled veterinarians are required by manufacturing concerns in the manufacture and distribution of biological products such as vaccines, serums, and anti-toxins. The practical laboratory work which the student receives at the Veterinary College fits him directly for these scientific pursuits as well as for research work. Manufacturing plants, as a rule, pay most attractive salaries for work of this kind. It is also to be noted that positions are available at experimental stations for laboratory research directors and investigators, and in veterinary and agricultural colleges for administrators and teachers.

PRIVATE PRACTICE

Never were the opportunities better for private practice than at the present time. Most people reading this can recall that there were more veterinary surgeons a few years ago than at the present time. Numerous towns and villages where, five or ten years ago, one and sometimes two veterinary surgeons were located, are now without even one. There are many districts in Western Canada offering good practices for veterinar-

ians and receiving no response—scores of them, in fact, where the lack of the skilled veterinarian is dearly paid for every year in livestock losses.

Moreover, the idea used to be prevalent that a veterinary practice could not, at the scale of fees ordinarily charged by veterinarians, pay a man more than \$1,800 or \$2,000 per year, but that was twenty or twenty-five years ago. It is not true to-day. The most apparent proof of this statement lies in the fact that a practice was formerly restricted to a district within driving distance of the office, whereas now the automobile has greatly enlarged the veterinarian's field. He can drive out forty miles to treat an animal as easily as he used to go eight or ten. Thus his district is many times larger than it was formerly. Livestock values are not at the present time high but, even so, it pays to call a veterinary surgeon to treat a diseased animal. The reputation which Canada has gained for healthy livestock can be protected only by an efficient veterinary service working in close co-operation with livestock owners. This reputation must be maintained if Canada is to have a great future in the livestock industry, which, of course, means opportunities for veterinarians. The actual earnings from private practice are dependent largely on individual effort and on location, but the yearly income averages from \$2,500 to \$5,000 and in some cases reaches as high as \$10,000.

Another field for the veterinary scientist is rapidly developing. This is the fox-farming industry. The fox-farmer will require expert advice on the fundamental biological laws so essential in his business and will have frequent need of the services of a veterinarian in the various health problems that arise in such an industry.

As in medicine, so in veterinary science, the highly-paid specialist has his place. In the larger cities there are veterinary surgeons who derive splendid incomes from the treatment of cats and dogs only. And this goes to show that in veterinary science there are rewards for those who possess originality, resource, and initiative.

THE COURSE OF STUDY

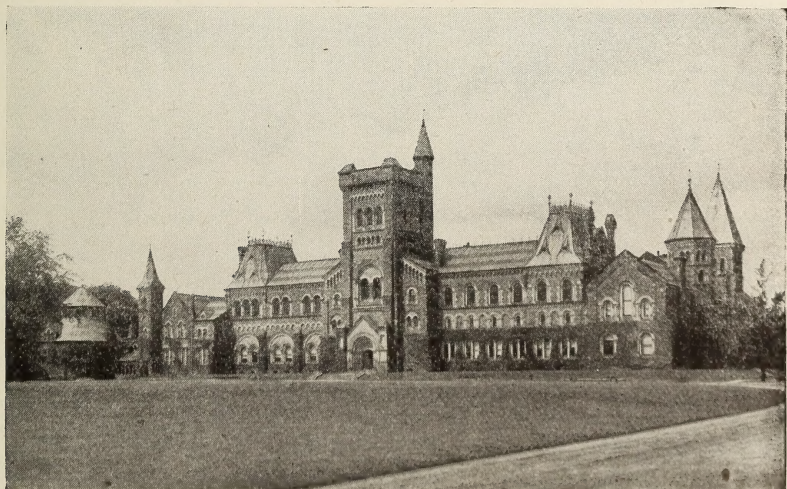
To the average man it is one of the chief merits of veterinary science as a practical course of study that the first year, or even part of it, is not spent on preliminary work which has no connection with the real course. On the contrary, every subject has, from the very beginning, direct bearing on the science itself. The student is given an exact knowledge of the structure and functions of the animal body and this knowledge forms the foundation for the successful application of veterinary medicine and surgery. He is taught the essentials of productive animal husbandry, including the breeds and breeding of animals, their management, feeding and improvement, as well as the marketing, classification, and judging of livestock. This fits him for work in the livestock industry requiring expert skill and training. The scientific study of the diseases affecting animals, of the best methods of prevention, and of their proper treatment fits him for practice as a veter-

inarian and furnishes a training for sanitary service work relating to the control and eradication of infectious diseases of animals. Training for sanitary service work relating to the hygienic production of milk and meat food products prepares the way for government inspectorships. In fact, there is a special course in food inspection with three hours' practical application each week.

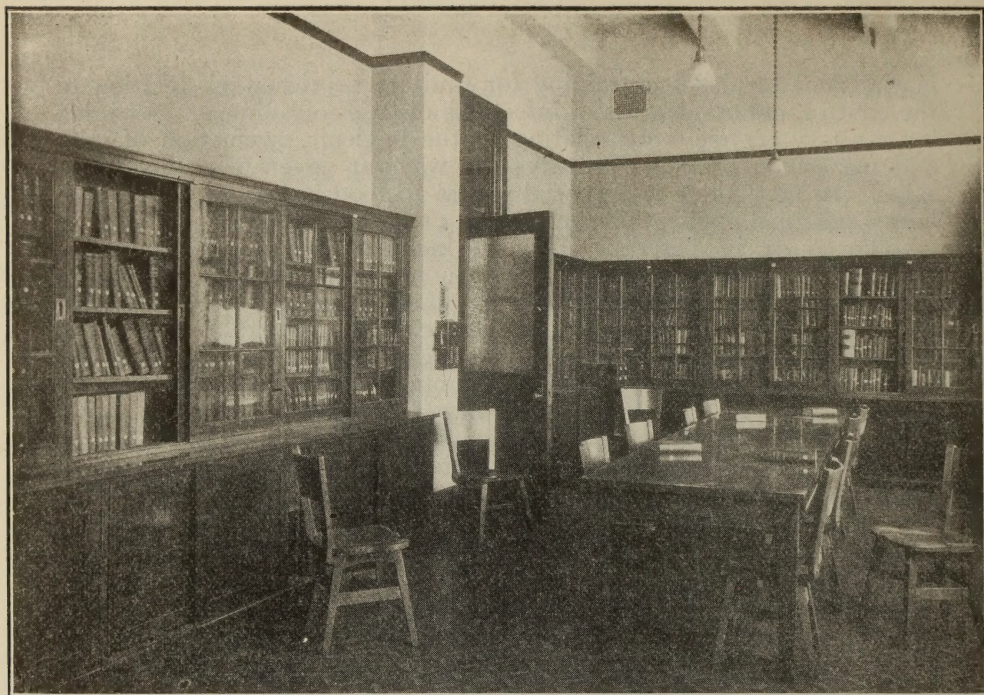
The course in Veterinary Science includes also economics, public speaking, and jurisprudence. The economics consists of a description and explanation of the economic structure of modern society with special reference to the importance of the livestock industry and the veterinary profession in the country's economic organization. Later on, special attention is devoted to the economic functions of government, especially as exemplified in the work of the state-employed veterinarian. The purpose of the three subjects is so to equip graduates that they may more adequately take their proper places of influence in the communities in which they may be situated.

THE ONTARIO VETERINARY COLLEGE

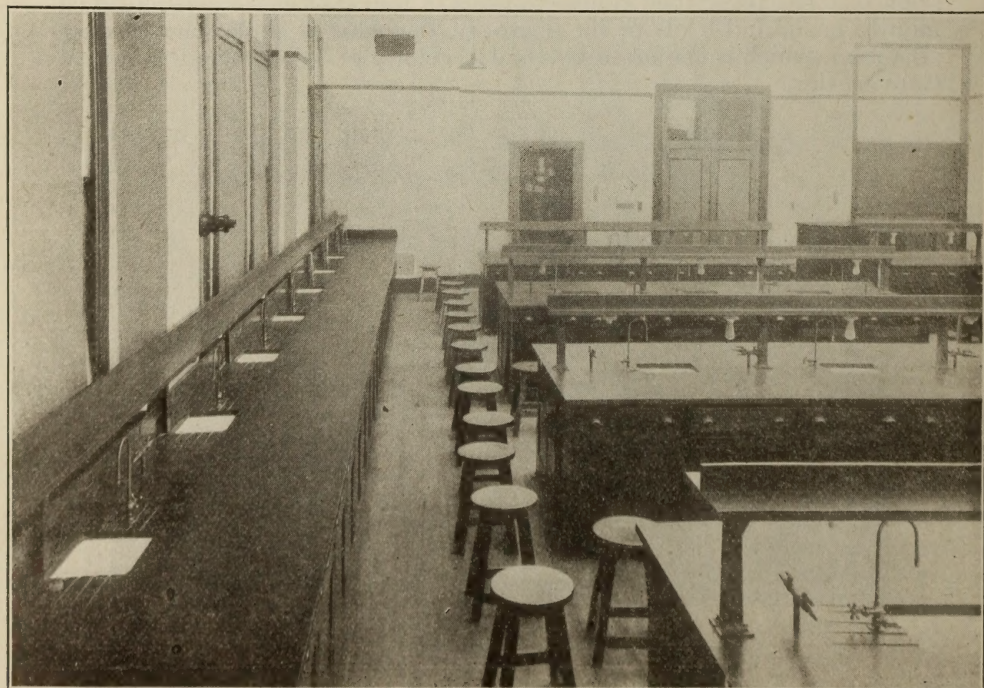
The Ontario Veterinary College is maintained by the Ontario Department of Agriculture and is affiliated with the University of Toronto. It is the only veterinary college in Canada for English-speaking people, and is one of the oldest and best-known on the American Continent. The College is, at present, located at Toronto, but will in the course of the year be transferred to Guelph. Its purpose is essentially that of a teaching institution to prepare students for a degree in veterinary science. The prescribed course consists of four college sessions of seven months each, and leads to the degree of Bachelor of Veterinary Science (B.V.Sc.), which is conferred by the University of Toronto at the annual Convocation.



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